Protorosaurus

Protorosaurus ("first lizard") is a genus of lizard-like early archosauromorph reptiles. Members of the genus lived during the late Permian period in Germany and Brazil. Once believed to have been an ancestor to <u>lizards</u>, *Protorosaurus* is now known to be one of the oldest members of the lineage that would eventually lead to archosaurs such as crocodilians and dinosaurs.

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Description



Protorosaurus grew up to 2 metres (6.6 ft) in length, and was a slender, lizard-like animal, with long legs and a long neck. Its body form suggests that it was fast-moving, although it may have fed primarily on

insects.^[1] *Protorosaurus* was closely related to <u>Czatkowiella</u> from the Early Triassic of Poland.^[2]

Protorosaurus Temporal range: Lopingian ~260-251 Ma Pre€ € OS D C P T J K PgN Fossil specimen, Teyler's Museum Scientific classification 🥖 Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Chordata Class: Reptilia Archosauromorpha Clade: Genus: †Protorosaurus von Meyer 1830 Species: †P. speneri Binomial name

†**Protorosaurus speneri** von Meyer 1830

Discovery

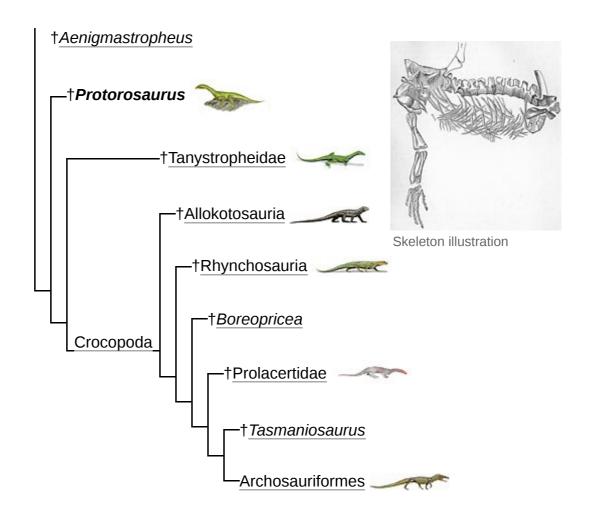
In 1914, a new <u>ceratopsian</u> dinosaur found by <u>Lawrence Lambe</u> was again given the name *Protorosaurus* (in this sense meaning "before <u>Torosaurus</u>"). When Lambe found that the name had already been used for the early archosauromorph, he renamed his ceratopsian *Chasmosaurus*.

In Geopark of Paleorrota, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, 3 vertebrae and some bones of the animal were found.

Relationships

The cladogram below follows an analysis by Ezcurra (2016), and highlights the position of *Protorosaurus* among other early archosauromorph reptiles.^[3]

Archosauromorpha



References

- 1. Palmer, D., ed. (1999). *The Marshall Illustrated Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Animals*. London: Marshall Editions. p. 93. **ISBN 1-84028-152-9**.
- 2. Borsuk–Białynicka, M.; Evans, S.E. (2009). <u>"A long–necked archosauromorph from the Early Triassic of Poland" (http://palaeontologia.pan.pl/PP65/PP65_203-234.pdf)</u> (pdf). *Palaeontologia Polonica*. **65**: 203–234.
- 3. Ezcurra MD. (2016) The phylogenetic relationships of basal archosauromorphs, with an emphasis on the systematics of proterosuchian archosauriforms. *PeerJ*, 4:e1778 [1] (https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.1778)

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